## JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Family Court, Judge, At-Large Seat 1

1. Name: Mr. David Michael Collins, Jr.

> Name that you are known by if different from above (Example: A Nickname): None

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? No (Includes Municipal, Magistrate, Etc.)

Home Address:

819 East North Street **Business Address:** 

Greenville, SC 29601

E-Mail Address:

Telephone Number:

(home):

(office):

(cell):

(864) 990-3061

1971 2. Date of Birth: Place of Birth: Augusta, Georgia

Social Security Number:

- 3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes. Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes.
- 4. SCDL# or SCHD#: Voter Registration Number
- 5. Have you served in the military? If so, give the dates, branch of service, highest rank attained, serial number (if applicable), present status, and the character of your discharge or release. Please provide a copy of your DD214 concerning your discharge.

No.

Family Status: In the space below, (a) state whether you are single, married, widowed, 6. divorced, or separated; (b) if married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name; (c) if you have ever been divorced or are in the process of obtaining a divorce, state the date, name of the moving party, court, and grounds; and (d) state the names of your children and their ages. If your children are old enough to work, include the occupation of each child.

Family Status: Divorced and remarried.

Married on July 15, 2000 to Rhonda Kay (Clement) Collins, no separation or divorce.

Divorced on February 11, 2000, Spartanburg Co., SC Family Court, Ms. Kelly Gosline Collins was the moving party, One Year's Continuous Separation.

Two children.

- 7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.
  - (a) Newberry College, August 1989 to May 1990. I left to continue my college education at the University of Georgia.
  - (b) University of Georgia, August 1990 to December 1991. I left to continue my college education at the University of South Carolina Upstate (USC-Spartanburg at the time of my transfer.)
  - (c) University of South Carolina Upstate, January 1992 to May 1993, Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice
  - (d) University of South Carolina, August 1993 to August 1999, Master of Public Administration
  - (e) Clemson University, August 1993 to August 1999, Master of Public Administration
  - (f) University of South Carolina School of Law, August 1995 to May 1998, Juris Doctorate
  - (g) Greenville Technical College, January 2013 to May 2014. I took courses in information technology but decided not to take any additional courses towards a degree.
- 8. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at law school. Give the years you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.

None.

- 9. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. Please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.
  - (a) South Carolina, 1998, took the bar exam one time.
  - (b) North Carolina, 2006, took the bar exam one time.
- 10. Describe chronologically, since graduation from law school, your legal experience. Please include a list of all positions held in which you worked in a legal capacity. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has

changed over the years. Please also describe the extent to which you were involved with the administrative and financial management of each of these entities, including management of trust accounts.

- (a) Howard Law Firm, April 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999, general practice with time primarily spent on family law and real estate transactions, I worked as a law clerk prior to being admitted to the bar and then as an associate and did not have any involvement in the administrative and financial management or the management of the firm trust accounts.
- (b) White & White Law Offices, P.C., July 1, 1999 to December 31, 1999, exclusively a real estate transaction practice, I was an associate and did not have any involvement in the administrative and financial management or the management of the firm trust accounts.
- (c) David M. Collins, Jr., Attorney at Law, January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2003, general practice with time primarily spent on family law and criminal defense plus some real estate transactions, I was a sole practitioner so I handled all the administrative and financial management for the firm as well as the management of the firm trust account.
- (d) Cate & Collins, P.A., January 1, 2004 to May 31, 2006, primary focus was on family law, but I also performed some criminal defense work, I was a junior partner so I had some involvement with, but was not primarily responsible for the administrative and financial management of the firm or the management of the firm trust accounts.
- (e) Sinclair & Collins, LLC, June 1, 2006 to April 30, 2010, primarily a family law and criminal defense practice but I also performed a few real estate closings in late 2006 and early 2007 but ended all real estate work in 2007, my partner, Phillip K. Sinclair, and I jointly handled the administrative and financial management of the firm and the management of the firm trust accounts plus I managed a separate trust account connected with my NC license.
- (f) Lawrence, Rudasill & Collins, P.A., May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011, this was primarily a family law and criminal defense practice, my partners, Jack Lawrence and Michael Rudasill, and I jointly handled the administrative and financial management of the firm and the management of the firm trust accounts plus I managed a separate trust account connected with my NC license.
- (g) Collins Law Firm, P.C., May 1, 2011 to December 31, 2015, my practice was primarily on family law with some criminal defense and estate planning, I was the sole managing attorney so I handled all the administrative and financial management for the firm as well as the management of all firm trust accounts.
- (h) Collins & Chryst, P.C., January 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017, primarily a family law practice with some criminal defense work, my partner, Stephen L. Chryst, and I jointly handled the administrative and financial management of the firm and the management of the firm trust accounts plus I managed a separate trust account connected with my NC license.
- (i) Collins Law Firm, P.C., October 1, 2017 to Present, primarily a family law practice with some criminal defense work, I am a sole practitioner, so I handled all the administrative and financial management for the firm as well as the management of the firm trust accounts.

Justices/judges applying for re-election to their <u>current</u> position may omit Questions 11-17. <u>If you are a judge seeking a judgeship different than your current position, Questions 11-17 should be answered based on your experience prior to serving on the bench.</u>

## 11. Please answer the following:

(a) If you are a candidate for Family Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience within each of the following Family Court practice areas: divorce and equitable division of property, child custody, adoption, abuse and neglect, and juvenile justice. Include information about cases you have handled in each of these practice areas, or if you have not practiced in an area, describe how your background and procedural knowledge has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Family Court Judge. Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Family Court Judge within the past five years.

November 2018 will mark my 20th anniversary as a lawyer and twenty years of practice in the South Carolina family court. I deal with family court cases on a daily basis and I am usually in the courtroom at least one per week. I think it's fair to say that during those twenty years, I have handled every type of case that comes through our family court system. I have been involved as a lawyer and as a guardian ad litem in abuse and neglect cases, adoption cases and juvenile justice cases. I have even been involved in cases where minors have requested permission from the court to obtain an abortion. I have also served as a guardian ad litem in divorce case. But, like most family court lawyers, I have spent much of my time over the last twenty years dealing with clients who are going through a divorce. In each of those divorces we must consider the seven big issues: (1) grounds for divorce, (2) custody and visitation, (3) child support, (4) spousal support, (5) property division, (6) restraints on conduct and (7) fees and costs. We do not necessarily have to address each of those issues in every divorce, but we have to at least think about each of them and decide if they are relevant to the client's situation.

In addition to my trial practice, I have handled appeals. In my appellate practice I have handled cases involving divorce, custody, adoption and abuse and neglect.

My weakest area is in juvenile justice. My experience is limited to a handful of cases where I served as either the attorney or the guardian for the child. However, during my practice I have also handled criminal defense cases at every trial court level and on appeal. As a result, I have a working knowledge of the criminal justice system and the relevant laws. I believe my experiences in both the adult system and the juvenile system provide me with a base of knowledge and experience that will allow me to quickly become an effective judge in juvenile justice cases.

I do believe my strength is in cases involving complex custody, visitation and adoption issues. That is where my practice has focused over the last several years.

For me, becoming a family court judge will mean taking the experience and the knowledge that I have gained over the last twenty years and putting it to use in the same court system but in a different role. Instead of advocating for my client's desired outcome, I would be able to use my knowledge and experience to decide between competing positions and, hopefully, do what is best for the children and the parties involved.

- (b) If you are a candidate for Circuit Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience in criminal matters, including any cases handled over the past five years and include a brief description of the issues involved. Further, please provide a brief written description of your experience in civil matters, including any cases handled over the past five years and include a brief description of the types of matters handled, issues involved, and procedural history. Please include information such as the primary areas in civil court in which you practice, whether you represent plaintiffs or defendants, or both. You may go back further than five years if you feel it would assist the Commission with its assessment of your experience. If you lack experience in an area, describe how your background and procedural knowledge has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Circuit Court Judge, or how you would compensate for your lack of experience in this area. Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Circuit Court Judge within the past five years.
- (c) If you are a candidate for Master-In-Equity, please provide a brief written description of your experience in the Master's court, including any cases handled over the past five years and include a brief description of the issues involved. Please include the frequency of your appearances before a Master-In-Equity or a Circuit Court Judge within the past five years.
- (d) If you are a candidate for Administrative Law Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience before an Administrative Law Judge, including any issues discussed and the frequency of your appearances before the Administrative Law or Circuit Court within the past five years.
- 12. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench?
  - (a) federal: None during the past 5 years
  - (b) state: Approximately one court appearance per week during the past 5 years
- 13. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench?
  - (a) civil: 1%
  - (b) criminal: 1%
  - (c) domestic: 97%

- (d) other: 1%
- 14. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?
  - (a) jury: 1%
  - (b) non-jury: 99%

Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel in these matters? Sole counsel.

- 15. List five of the most significant litigated matters you have personally handled in either trial or appellate court or before a state or federal agency. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.
  - (a) Seitz v. Baby Girl 'D', Pickens County Family Court, 2000. This was my first adoption case and was the beginning of the most enjoyable part of my practice.
  - (b) Bowers v. Bowers, S.C. Court of Appeals, February 25, 2002, 349 S.C. 85, 561 S.E.2d 610 (S.C. App., 2002). This was the first appeal I ever handled and opened the door for me to handle more appellate work which became the second most enjoyable part of my practice.
  - (c) Beth M. v. Sharon D., Spartanburg County Family Court, 2009. This was a custody and visitation case involving a same-sex couple. This case was significant to me because it highlighted the difficulties involved in applying legal standards developed for traditional family structures to same-sex couples and other non-traditional family arrangements.
  - (d) Doe v. Roe, Cherokee County, 2013. This was a grandparent custody case that ended with the grandparents being allowed to adopt. This case was significant to me because of the length of time I was involved with this family, the way the situation and, therefore, the desired outcome changed over that time and the difference it makes when adults put the needs of the children first.
  - (e) Lucas v. Olsen, Cherokee County Family Court, 2004. This was another grandparent case, but this time I represented the mother. This was another case that I was involved with for several years from 2011 through its conclusion in 2016. This case was one of the most emotionally difficult cases I was ever involved with. I came to realize how much damage could be done to the children and an entire family through protracted litigation, the emotions that drive that litigation and the stress that results from that litigation.
- 16. List up to five civil appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision, and the citation if the case was reported.
  - (a) Bowers v. Bowers, 349 S.C. 85, 561 S.E.2d 610 (S.C. App., 2002).
  - (b) Department of Social Services v. Phillips, 365 S.C. 572, 618 S.E.2d 922 (S.C. App., 2005).
  - (c) Susan R. v. Donald R., 389 S.C. 107, 697 S.E.2d 634 (S.C. App., 2010).
  - (d) Ross v. Ross, 394 S.C. 261, 715 S.E.2d 359 (S.C. App., 2011).

- (e) <u>South Carolina Dep't of Soc. Servs. v. Mary C.</u>, 396 S.C. 15, 720 S.E.2d 503 (S.C. App., 2011).
- 17. List up to five criminal appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported.
  - (a) State v. Carter, S.C. Court of Appeals, April 27, 2005, 2005-UP-299.
- 18. Have you ever held judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the courts involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Describe the jurisdiction of each of the courts and note any limitations on the jurisdiction of each court.

No.

19. If the answer to question 18 is yes, describe or list five of your most significant orders or opinions and give the citations if they were reported. Also list citations to any appellate review of these orders or opinions.

N/A

- 20. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.
  - (a) South Carolina, November 16, 1998
  - (b) North Carolina, March 25, 2006
  - (c) United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, March 15, 2000.
  - (d) United States Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit, August 19, 2002.
  - (d) United States Tax Court, August 22, 2002.
  - (e) United States District Court for the District of Western North Carolina, June 27, 2014.
- 21. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs? If so, briefly describe each course or lecture.
  - (a) I lectured at the continuing legal education seminar entitled "Complex Assets in Divorce" for experienced family court practitioners present by NBI on August 24, 2017.
  - (b) I lectured at the continuing legal education seminar entitled "Divorce Law Boot Camp" for new and experienced family court practitioners present by NBI on August 16, 2016.
  - (c) I lectured at the 2015 "Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners" for experienced family court practitioners.
  - (d) I lectured at the 2014 "Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners" for experienced family court practitioners.

- (e) I lectured at the 2014 "In the Best Interest of the Child: GAL Update" for new and experience guardian ad litems.
- (f) I lectured at the 2014 "Family Law Essentials" for new and experienced family court practitioners.
- (g) I lectured at the 2013 "Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners" for experienced family court practitioners.
- (h) I lectured at the 2013 "In the Best Interest of the Child: GAL Update" for new and experience guardian ad litems.
- (i) I lectured at the continuing legal education seminar entitled "Adoption Law: Start to Finish" for new and experienced family court practitioners present by NBI on November 18, 2013.
- (j) I lectured at the continuing legal education seminar entitled "Attorney's Guide to Adoption Law" for new and experienced family court practitioners present by NBI on June 13, 2013.
- (k) I lectured at the continuing legal education seminar entitled "Complex Child Custody and Support Issues in Divorce" for experienced family court practitioners present by NBI on June 3, 2013.
- (I) I lectured at the continuing legal education seminar entitled "Dealing With A Rambo Litigator in Divorce" for experienced family court practitioners present by NBI on February 8, 2013.
- (m) I lectured at the 2012 "Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners" for experienced family court practitioners.
- (n) I lectured at the 2012 "In the Best Interest of the Child: GAL Update" for new and experience guardian ad litems.
- (o) I lectured at the continuing legal education seminar entitled "South Carolina Update: Family Law" for experienced family court practitioners present by NBI on March 1, 2012.
- (p) I lectured at the continuing legal education seminar entitled "Advanced Family Law" for experienced family court practitioners present by NBI on February 2, 2012.
- (q) I lectured at the 2011 "Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners" for experienced family court practitioners.
- (r) I lectured at the continuing legal education seminar entitled "Handling Divorce Cases from Start to Finish" for new and experienced family court practitioners present by NBI on October 5, 2011.
- (s) I lectured at the continuing legal education seminar entitled "Divorce Litigation: From Start to Finish" for new and experienced family court practitioners present by NBI on August 12, 2011.
- (t) I lectured at the continuing legal education seminar entitled Adoption Law: Start to Finish" for new and experienced family court practitioners present by NBI on April 28, 2011.
- (u) I lectured at the continuing legal education seminar entitled "Family Law From A to Z" for new and experienced family court practitioners present by NBI on February 17, 2011
- (v) I lectured at the 2010 "Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners" for experienced family court practitioners.

- (w) I lectured at the continuing legal education seminar entitled "Mental Health Evidence in Divorce" for experienced family court practitioners present by NBI on March 3, 2010.
- (x) I lectured at the continuing legal education seminar entitled "Advanced Family Law" for experienced family court practitioners present by NBI on February 8, 2010.
- (y) I lectured at the 2009 "Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners" for experienced family court practitioners.
- (z) I lectured at the continuing legal education seminar entitled "Family Law From A to Z" for new and experienced family court practitioners present by NBI on October 15, 2009.
- (aa) I lectured at the continuing legal education seminar entitled "Advanced Issues in Divorce" for experienced family court practitioners present by NBI on May 4, 2009.
- (bb) I lectured at the continuing legal education seminar entitled "Child Custody From A to Z: In the Best Interests of the Child" for new and experienced family court practitioners present by NBI on February 3, 2009.
- (cc) I lectured at the continuing legal education seminar entitled "Your Family Law Practice in the 21st Century" for experienced family court practitioners present by NBI on March 31, 2008.
- 22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.

I have attached my continuing legal education report from the past five years.

23. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.

None.

- 24. Please furnish as a separate attachment, two examples of legal articles, briefs, orders, or other legal writings for which you can claim sole or primary authorship. If you cannot claim sole authorship, please explain the extent to which you are the primary author, to include a description of the other authors and their contributions. The writing samples are for the Commission's use only and will not be published. (If you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, this question is inapplicable.)
  - (a) S.C. Court of Appeals, 2011.
  - (b) S.C. Court of Appeals, 2010.
- 25. What is your rating or membership status, if any, by any legal rating organization, such as, Best Lawyers, Chambers, Legal 500, Martindale-Hubbell, Who's Who Legal, Super Lawyers, Million Dollar Advocates Forum, etc.? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any.
  - (a) Martindale-Hubbell, AV.
  - (b) Avvo, 10 out of 10.

- 26. List all bar associations and professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices you have held in such groups.
  - (a) South Carolina Bar Association Member, Family Law Council, July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2013; Chair, Seventh Judicial Circuit Fee Dispute Board, June 2011 to January 2013.
  - (b) North Carolina State Bar
  - (c) North Carolina Bar Association (former member)
  - (d) American Bar Association (former member)
- 27. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the office or offices involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Also, state whether or not you have timely filed your report with the State Ethics Commission during the period you held public office. If not, were you ever subject to a penalty? If so, give details, including dates.
  - (a) November 19, 2007 to July 9, 2008, Commissioner, Spartanburg County Election Commission, appointed, timely filed all reports with the State Ethics Commission and was never subject to any penalty.
- 28. For sitting or former judges, list all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected judicial office. Specify your dates of employment, employer, major job responsibilities, and supervisor.

N/A

29. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, give details, including dates.

- 30. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law, teaching of law, or holding judicial or other public office? If so, give details, including a description of your occupation, business, or profession, the dates of your employment, and the name of your business or employer.
  - (a) I worked doing manual labor during holidays and summers while in high school and college.
  - (b) I worked as an account manager for Showtyme TV Rentals while I was in graduate school from April 1994 to August 1995. My job included inside and outside sales, delivery and setup of furniture and electronic equipment, collecting rental payments, working with customers to address delinquent accounts and repossession of items at the expiration or cancellation of a rental term.
  - (c) Director of Miracle Hill Mission in Spartanburg, SC from October 1, 2002 to February 28, 2003. I oversaw the day-to-day operations of the men's and women's homeless shelter that had recently been taken over by Miracle Hill Ministries.
  - (d) I was previously a licensed real estate broker from October 9, 2000 to June 30, 2003. I formed an LLC named Collins Real Estate, LLC. I had one real estate agent associated with the business for a short time, but I did not actively work to build the business and did not participate in any real estate transactions as a broker. I voluntarily placed my license in active status on July 11, 2001 and allowed the license to lapse at the end of its term on June 30, 2003 because of the inactivity.
  - (e) I am a licensed massage therapist, but I do not actively practice. I do own an LLC named Blue Ridge Bodyworks, LLC but it is inactive and has been since its formation.
- 31. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Explain the nature of the business, your duties, and the term of your service.
  - Collins Law Firm, P.C., law firm, solo practitioner, since May 1, 2011.
- 32. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a "lobbyist," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a "lobbyist's principal," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(14)? If so, give the dates of your employment or activity in such capacity and specify by whom you were directed or employed.

- 33. Provide, as a separate attachment, a complete, current financial net worth statement that itemizes in detail:
  - (a) the identity and value of all financial assets held, directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, bank accounts, real estate, securities, trusts, investments, and other financial holdings; and
  - (b) the identity and amount of each liability owed, directly or indirectly, which is in excess of \$1,000, including, but not limited to, debts, mortgages, loans, and other financial obligations.

(A net worth statement form is provided with this questionnaire and you must use this format for submission of your financial statement.)

NOTE: The Commission may require written confirmation that financial obligations have been satisfied or that the parties have agreed upon a payment schedule.

A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.

34. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? If so, give details.

No.

35. Since filing with the Commission your letter of intent to run for judicial office, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal? If so, please specify the item or items you received, the date of receipt, and the lobbyist or lobbyist's principal involved.

No.

36. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf in furtherance of your candidacy for the position you seek. If you have spent over \$100, have you reported your expenditures to the House and Senate Ethics Committees?

None.

37. List the recipient and amount of all contributions made by you, a member of your immediate family, or by a business with whom you are associated, to members of the General Assembly within the past four years.

None.

38. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? If so, please specify the amount, solicitor, donor, and date of the solicitation.

No.

39. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek or currently hold. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest.

In the past I have practiced with attorneys who are regularly appear in family court and I currently rent space from a group of lawyers at least one of which regularly appears in family court. I have also worked as co-counsel on cases with attorney who regularly appear in family court. If elected, I would not hear any cases involving one of those attorneys until at least 18 months had passed since our business relationship ended. After that 18 month period ended, I would continue to inform parties of the prior business relationship on the record and allow the parties and their attorneys to decide if they wanted to request that I recuse myself or if they agreed to waive any potential conflict. If they requested that I recuse myself, I would do so unless there was a risk of harm to a child or one of the parties and no other judge was available to hear the case. If that occurred, I would consider issuing a limited, temporary order without prejudice to any party that addressed the risk of harm until they could have their case heard by another judge.

- 40. Describe any interest you or a member of your immediate family has in real property:
  - (a) in which there is a potential conflict of interest with your involvement in a South Carolina state or local public agency;
  - (b) in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or that adjoins property in which there have been public improvements of \$200; or
  - (c) which was sold, leased, or rented to a state or local public agency in South Carolina.

List the interest you hold and the value and location of the property. Identify as applicable the:

- (a) nature of any potential conflict of interest;
- (b) nature and value of any public improvements; and
- (c) South Carolina state or local public agency which purchased or is leasing or renting such property.

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

None.

41. Identify any personal property interest you or a member of your immediate family sold, leased, or rented to a South Carolina state or local public agency. Identify the property, its amount or value, and the name of the agency. Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

None.

42. For sitting judges, if you currently hold an interest in stock or other securities or have held such an interest, list each stock you currently own or owned during the prior calendar year. If you prefer, you may attach broker or account records containing the requested information instead of listing it here.

N/A

43. For sitting judges, have you ever accepted anything of value from an attorney or litigant in a matter currently or previously before you or your court? If so, please give the details, including the name of the attorney or litigant and the thing of value you received.

N/A

44. For sitting judges, have you used the services of your staff, for which you did not pay, while campaigning for this office?

N/A

45. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law? If so, give details but do not include traffic violations which are subject to a penalty of \$125 or less. You must include any and all arrests, including, but not limited to, offenses for driving under the influence or similar traffic offenses. Include all arrests that resulted in expungement, which will be redacted. If you have questions regarding whether to include an offense, please contact the Commission.

[All answers have been received and considered by the Commission, and as noted above, any expunged matters are redacted from the record.]

46. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? If yes, explain.

- 47. Have you ever been sued by a client? Have you ever been a named party (personally or professionally) in or had a pecuniary interest in any civil or criminal proceedings? If so, give details, including, but not limited to, dates, and resolutions.
  - (a) Civil Action Larry E. Evans, Sr. v. David Michael Collins, Jr., civil action arising out of a motor vehicle accident. The action was voluntarily dismissed by Plaintiff during the discovery phase of the litigation.
  - (b) Family Court Action Kelly Gosline Collins v. David M. Collins, Jr., 2000-DR-42-0240, divorce action, filed January 26, 2000, final order issued February 11, 2000. This was the divorce action filed by my first wife, it ended with the approval of our settlement agreement and a divorce based on one year's continuous separation.
  - (c) Civil Action Billy Cohn Wood v. David M. Collins, 2012CV4210108611, filed October 17, 2012 and ended by a bench trial on January 17, 2013. Plaintiff had consulted me about a probate case but decided not to hire me to represent him. He represented himself in probate court and received an adverse decision. He then sued me in Magistrate Court claiming that my failure to represent him at trial had resulted in his losses. I prevailed at the bench trial in Magistrate Court.
  - (d) Civil Action TLC Accounting & Tax Inc. v. David M. Collins Jr, P.C., 2013-CP-23-6634, filed December 17, 2013 and dismissed December 21, 2015. This was an action brought by an accountant I hired over fees she claimed to be owed, the action was settled by payment by me of an amount less than she claimed was owed.

48. If you are in private practice, are you covered by malpractice insurance and, if so, how long have you carried malpractice insurance? If applicable, have you ever been covered by a tail policy? If so, please explain when you were covered by a tail policy. Also, if applicable, indicate your coverage and deductible for your current malpractice policy.

I am covered by malpractice insurance.

I have been continuously covered since my admission to the South Carolina Bar on November 16, 1998.

I have never been covered by a tail policy.

49. Have you ever, in South Carolina or any other jurisdiction, as a lawyer, judge, or other professional, been sanctioned or disciplined for lawyer, judicial, or other professional misconduct or has any jurisdiction found that you committed any misconduct? If so, give the details and describe any final disposition. Include any and all confidential and public sanction, discipline, or finding of misconduct of any kind.

[Yes and no responses are redacted for all candidates unless there is a public discipline.]

50. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? If so, give the details and the resolution. Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect? If so, give the details.

No.

Note: The flash drive with your application materials contains (1) Section 2-19-70(c); (2) JMSC Rule 24, and (3) informal opinions and letters concerning pledging prohibitions, with which third parties acting on your behalf, as well as you, must comply.

Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened or have you been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? If so, give details.

No.

52. Have you requested any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? Describe the campaigning you have done for this election and include a list of those individuals you have asked to campaign on your behalf and, to the best of your knowledge, those who have campaigned for you on their own initiative.

53. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule, which prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges until after the draft report becomes final, which occurs on the day and time specified on the Commission's published screening schedule?

Yes.

54. Since submitting your letter of intent to become a candidate, have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted any member of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? If so, give details.

No.

- 55. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five (5) persons from whom you are providing references. Also, provide the Commission with <u>original letters</u> of recommendation from each person listed herein, including their signature (preferably in blue ink). The Commission will not accept a photocopy or electronic submission of a <u>letter of recommendation and failure to include all five (5) original letters of recommendation in your packet when you submit it will render your packet incomplete.</u> Please <u>do not</u> have references mail your reference letters to the Commission directly. You must return the five (5) original letters of recommendation to the Commission with your application packet.
  - (a) J. Daniel Lejeune, P.O. Box 444, Landrum, SC 29356, (864) 457-7381.
  - (b) J. Benjamin Stevens, P.O. Box 6158, Spartanburg, SC 29304, (864) 598-9172.
  - (c) M. Brooks Moss, 208 E. Floyd Baker Blvd., Gaffney, SC 29340, (864) 902-8396.
  - (d) Kenneth P. Shabel, P.O. Box 3254, Spartanburg, SC 29304, (864) 707-2020.
  - (e) Vanessa H. Kormylo, 1314 E. Washington St., Greenville, SC 29607, (864) 640-8879.
- 56. Are you active on or a member of a social media or Internet site or have you, to your knowledge, been featured or depicted on a social media or Internet site, such as, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.? If so, how would your use of social media or other similar types of Internet sites be affected if you were serving in a judicial capacity?

I have accounts on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter, but do not actively post or interact with others through these platforms.

If elected, I anticipate that I will maintain my presence on those platforms so that I can receive information from friends, colleagues and other sources. I do anticipate that I will actively post any information or engage others on those platforms in a professional capacity. I may occasionally post or engage close friends or family members, but that would be for purely personal reasons.

I will follow any existing or future rules or opinions addressing the use of social media platforms.

57. List all civic, charitable, educational, social, and fraternal organizations of which you are or have been a member during the past five years and include any offices held in such a group,

any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere.

- (a) Landrum Masonic Lodge, held the offices of Senior Steward, Junior Deacon, Senior Deacon, Junior Warden and Senior Warden (former member).
- (b) Scottish Rite, no offices held (former member).
- (c) American Radio Relay League, no offices held.
- (d) Radio Relay International, no offices held.
- (e) G-QRP, no offices held (former member).
- (f) ORP Amateur Radio Club International, no offices held (former member).
- (g) Spartanburg Amateur Radio Club, no offices held.
- (h) Spartanburg County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), no offices held.
- (i) Polk County, NC Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), no offices held.
- (i) Thermal Belt Amateur Radio Club, no offices held.
- (k) National Rifle Association, no offices held.
- (1) Belton Gun Club, no office held.
- 58. Provide any other information that may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for nomination for the position you seek. This information may include how your life experiences have affected or influenced the kind or type of judge you have been or plan to be.

YOUR SIGNATURE WILL BE HELD TO CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY PROCEEDING BEFORE A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE OR ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR CREDIT.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY ANSWERS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.	
Signature:	
Sworn to before me this day of	_, 2018.
(Notary Signature)	
(Notary Printed Name)	

Notary Public for South Carolina My Commission Expires: